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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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POLLUTION OF STREAMS BY MUNICIPAL SEWAGE.

DAMAGES AWARDED AGAINST A CITY BECAUSE OF THE POLLUTION OF A STREAM BY ITS WASTES.

The city of Henderson, Ky., discharged its sewage into a small stream called Canoe Creek. The slop from a distillery, which was for some time discharged with the city sewage, settled to the bottom of the creek and decomposed, killing the fish, making the water unfit for drinking by stock, and creating a stench. Owners of property along the bank of the stream brought suit against the city and the operator of the distillery for damages to their property.

The Court of Appeals of Kentucky decided that the city was liable, but relieved the operator of the distillery, holding that, as the city had permitted the distillery to connect with the city sewers and had made no attempt to regulate the character of matter discharged from the distillery into the sewers, the city was responsible for the damage done.

The essential part of the opinion is published in this issue of the Public Health Reports at page 3303.

THE DIVISION OF SANITARY REPORTS AND STATISTICS.

BUREAU OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

The work of the Bureau of the Public Health Service of the United States is carried on, under the direction of the Surgeon General, through six divisions, one of which is that of Sanitary Reports and Statistics.

Function.

The function of the Division of Sanitary Reports and Statistics is (1) to collect information of the relative prevalence and geographic distribution of diseases, and other sanitary data essential to the work of the Public Health Service or necessary to efficiency in State or local health administration; (2) to compile in statistical form sanitary data which can in this way be made useful; and (3) to publish